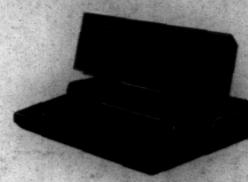




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# Casinos and crime: a real-world connection

In case there is still any doubt that the reality of legalized gambling doesn't match what its toadies have promised the people of Mississippi, an October 9 front-page article in The Clarion-Ledger should put the issue to rest.

Written by Beverly Pettigrew Kraft and entitled, "Big gambling debts pushing some to crime," the article relates in chilling detail the human devastation wrought by legalized gambling in Mississippi.

While supporters continue to repeat their tired old mantra about the economic benefits of legalized gambling, more and more people are crowding federal and state prisons due to gambling-related crimes. Supporters don't talk about that fact.

Included in Kraft's article were the sad stories of:

- Decorated Jackson police detective Alvalene Baggett, a 12-year veteran of the force. She was convicted by a federal jury Sept. 29 on charges of bribery and conspiracy to commit extortion.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Harold Brittain contended Baggett accepted bribes from Jackson drug dealers to help pay casino gambling debts that had risen to more than \$120,000 over a two-year period. Baggett has denied any wrongdoing, and she is appealing her conviction.

If casinos are such fine, upstanding members of the Mississippi community as they purport to be, one has to wonder why they allowed a person like Alvalene Baggett to sink into gambling debt that totaled at least twice her annual salary over that two-year period.

- Hugh Arena, 61, who robbed the same Biloxi bank twice within a week. Arena wore a canvas sack over his head and armed himself with a can of creamed corn.

"He immediately took the proceeds of both bank robberies to the casinos and lost it," said Brad Pigott, U.S. Attorney for the southern district of Mississippi.

Arena was arrested in a casino, having lost about \$45,000 of the \$51,500 he received in the bank holdups.

- Eric Thomas Cohn, a Georgia man who developed a habit of stopping to rob banks on his way to Mississippi to gamble at Gulf Coast casinos.

"As part of his confession, he indicated he committed both (bank robberies) because he was heavily in debt from gambling in Biloxi. He admitted that after both bank robberies, he traveled to Biloxi and gambled away the proceeds of the bank robberies," Pigott said.

- Beverly Durham and Claudette Johnson, who separately embezzled a total of nearly \$1.1 million from Deposit Guaranty National Bank (now AmSouth) in Jackson.

"I got involved in gambling. By the time I realized I had an addiction, really I was too embarrassed to get help," Durham told a federal judge on the day she was sentenced.

Prosecutors have publicly said they believe Johnson's crimes were also prompted by gambling debts.

- Tanner Bowman, who was convicted of capital murder for killing his elderly Jackson neighbor in order to steal her jewelry and pay off gambling debts. Tanner, who had visited a Vicksburg casino earlier on the day of the murder, hocked the dead woman's jewelry at a local pawn shop.

Legalized gambling has "been of some significance as a factor in motivating a number of Mississippians, regrettably, to be tempted to steal money when in the rest of their lives there has been no temptation," Pigott said in the article in The Clarion-Ledger.



The gambling-political complex in this state sees no connection, however.

"There has been no correlation made to increased crime and other negative activities," Andy Bourland, executive director of the Mississippi Gaming Association, said in the article.

Of course, a gambling industry shill would be expected to say no less, even in the face of overwhelming real-world evidence.

Mississippians should weigh that evidence, however, and then draw their own conclusions based not on economic considerations but on the human consequences.

If only that was the case, there would be no doubt about the future of legalized gambling in Mississippi.

## GUEST OPINION:

### The Baptist civil war

By Tony Martin, Associate Editor

"...They [Southern Baptists] regard the present crisis as one which they would have strenuously avoided by every human effort, but they have come to the conclusion, from the facts which have been placed before their minds and which have appeared in the public prints, that further connection with the national organization for foreign and domestic missions, is neither agreeable, proper nor advantageous. They recommend, therefore, the adoption of the following resolutions: Resolved, that this convention herewith dissolves all connection with the triennial convention, and the American Baptist home mission society..."

So it was in 1845 that Baptists in the south broke ties with their northern brethren. This quote from the "Report On Our Relation With the North" came as part of a long and ongoing debate over the rights of slaveholders to be appointed to mission posts. Slaveholders were considered by the north as being "morally unequal" with non-slaveholders. This schism ultimately led to the formation

of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

While I'd be quick to point out that the idea of owning another person as a slave or a servant is repellent and morally reprehensible, it was a fact of society in that day. This same expression of principle was what ultimately led to the war between the states.

Fast forward 155 years to 2000. We see in Texas this same drama being played out, on a much smaller stage and over issues of comparatively little consequence. In 1861, hotheads on both sides of the spectrum pounded their chests and shouted until they were hoarse advocating union or disunion,

whatever the case might be. Before cooler heads could prevail and honest dialogue take place, we were plunged into a great civil war. Civil wars are always the most harsh and hateful, because they literally can pit brother against brother.

I'm afraid the standoff between the SBC and the Baptist General Convention of Texas has escalated to the point that neither side can back down without conceding some level of compromise. Folks would rather exchange blows than admit the senselessness of the fight. We've heard that this all grew out of a "battle for the Bible," and while I'd certainly agree that the Bible is worth going to the mat over, I

sure don't know what this latest squabble is about.

I'm naive enough to believe that cool heads can here prevail. It may be that the cool heads might be found among the rank and file of good down-home Texas Baptists, who are sick to death of all this political intrigue and inflated egos. Surely there are folks in that great state who realize that the ultimate losers in this fuss are their neighbors who don't know Christ. As long as we continue to parade our ignorance before a lost world, we hand Satan a victory on the platter of his choosing. Think of all the energy expended and resources channeled — and to what end?

I take comfort in knowing that no matter what we do, God is ultimately glorified. I'm sure he takes no pleasure in what is happening. There is that inviolate principle of sowing and reaping, and for those who have squandered unredemable time over such petty matters, there will be a grim day of accounting.

God, preserve us and protect us from ourselves.

# Missionary keeps faith amid many hardships

ARUSHA, Tanzania (BP) — Barbara Brown, a high school librarian in Tennessee for 30 years, looks like the stereotypical quiet, mild-mannered librarian — but looks can be deceiving.

Brown, who has served as a missionary to Africa for the past 18 years, has survived a car wreck and a political riot in Zimbabwe as well as an armed robbery and an attempted purse snatching in Tanzania. She's still going strong.

"The Lord enables you to do what he calls you to do," she declared. He has called her to serve as a librarian and treasurer at two Baptist seminaries in Africa since the death of her husband in 1979.

"I had always been active in missions" through church involvement and home mission projects, she reflected. But after her husband's death, she said she sensed God saying, "Barbara, I've got a different road for you to travel and I want you to follow me step by step."

"It was a gradual process the Lord began to reveal to me about missions," she said. After serving for two months as a volunteer at a seminary library in Colombia, Brown began the process of applying for missionary

appointment through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB).

ments, which permitted her to become a career missionary.

Brown served 11 years as a librarian and treasurer at Baptist Theological Seminary of Zimbabwe. The nation's government began denying work permits to missionaries who had served there more than 10 years, forcing her to look elsewhere.

"I could have retired but I sensed it wasn't time for me to go home," she explained. "It was clear that I needed to stay on the field."

Even after joining the staff of International Baptist Theological Seminary of Eastern Africa in Arusha, Tanzania, Brown had several other opportunities to retire but she was convinced God still wanted her to serve Him in Africa.

"I've lost count of how many times I started to retire," she added. The nearest she came to actually retiring was more than a year ago when she went back to the States for her final 14-month furlough.

Eight months into her furlough, however, the seminary still needed a treasurer and she agreed to head back to Africa.

"I failed retirement," she admitted with a laugh. "I've definitely committed to work until August next year—but we'll see."

Since returning to Arusha in March, one of her most harrowing experiences in life unfolded a month later when a gang of machete-wielding robbers broke into her house.

"There were 10 of them altogether; four in my house," she recounted. "I was scared at the time. They slapped me around. I didn't know what they were going to do next. I was able to

get away and get to the bathroom and lock myself in" where she stayed until the intruders left.

Brown said the greatest material loss she suffered during the robbery was her engagement ring and wedding ring.

Since the attack, however, her children have sent her a new ring with the birthstones of her children and grandchildren surrounding her birthstone. "It's not a replacement of the wedding ring," she noted, but the new ring's symbolism of her family's legacy "represents the fulfillment of the promise my husband and I made to each other when we were married."

Although she still has occasional flashbacks about the break-in, she remains committed to serving God right where she is. "The Lord saw that I wasn't killed so I figured he still has work for me to do," she said.



DETERMINED — Southern Baptist missionary Barbara Brown has survived a car wreck, a political riot, and an armed robbery during 18 years on the mission field, but she refuses to be sidetracked from God's call to serve in Africa. Despite hardships, she said, "The Lord enables you to do what He calls you to do." (BP photo by Trennis Henderson)

Noting that she met all the requirements for career missions service "except I was too old," Brown was appointed at age 52 as a missionary associate. The IMB later changed the age require-

MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
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## Looking back

10 years ago

The staff of the Baptist Building in Jackson pause from their workday to dedicate a new prayer room, with an admonition from Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive director Bill Causey that, "what takes place in this building must be heaven-directed."

20 years ago

Baptists in DeSoto and Tate counties meet in a combined session and unanimously vote to merge, forming Northwest Association. The name is chosen to "express a newness, and (to) identify where it is in the state," according to a report from the meeting.

50 years ago

More than 1,000 college students from across Mississippi are expected to attend the upcoming Baptist Student Union state convention of the campus of Mississippi Southern College in Hattiesburg. Among the speakers will be Foy Valentine, pastor of First Church, Gonzales, Texas.

# Mississippi WMU hosts MK's Reentry Retreat

**Tony Martin**  
Associate Editor

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) hosted the Missionary Kids (MK) Reentry Retreat Aug. 10-13 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Fifty-nine MKs participated.

The retreat was designed to provide an opportunity for children of international missionaries who are college freshmen to make a transition to college life in the United States.

The retreat provided practical guidelines, ideas, and resources for beginning college on a positive footing. It provided opportunities for corporate worship, small group experiences, and options for activities of skill and interests.

Over 130 groups and individuals made donations and gifts, including alarm clocks, laundry bags, and school supplies. The Missionary Parents Fellowship

donated backpacks and calculators.

In partnership with the International Mission Board (IMB), Mississippi WMU secured the retreat site, made all the necessary travel and other arrangements, and paid all expenses for missionary kids and program personnel.

Mark Whitworth, IMB program coordi-

nator for the event, said, "What a loving experience to offer the kids. Obviously the generosity of your state ladies, parents, and your office was notably reflected in the overwhelming array of gifts."

The MKs were equally appreciative. "I think MKs are the luckiest kids in the world to be in your prayers and to have been under your care for a few days," wrote April Smith of the IMB western South America region and a student at Hinds Community College.

The weekend began with the Mississippi welcome banquet. The dinner was hosted for the MKs with special recognition given those from Mississippi. Other program components included worship sessions, small group experiences, and free time for recreation.

Alabama and Texas WMUs began this retreat and hosted it for many years. This was Mississippi's first opportunity to act as host.



MK's and program personnel at Camp Garaywa

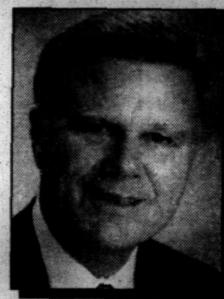
## SBTS alumni to gather

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, alumni luncheon, Tuesday, October 31, Noon. Skyroom, Baptist Building. \$6.00 per person at door. Contact Jimmy Porter, (601) 968-3800 or outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. Email jporter@mbcb.net.

### LESSONS IN COMMUNICATION

This year, more than any previous presidential year, the debates have been a study in communication. It seems that every four years we get a refresher course in how and what we communicate beyond just our words. In this age of communication and information, it is eye-opening to realize how little we know about the complicated process of communication.

Much of the post-debate discussion has centered around the significance of non-verbal com-



## Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

munication. Sighs, smirks, sniffles, rolling of the eyes — they are all subtle, simple, and strong forms of communication. Often, our non-verbal expressions are

telling the truth while our words are saying something else.

The political pundits grab every sentence spoken by the presidential candidates and pull them apart seeking to discover whether it is the truth and "nothing but the truth." While, at times, it may be the truth in word — it is undercut by a sound or a look.

Years ago when I was a young pastor, I was in a staff meeting making a proposal for a new program we were planning to implement. As I presented the ideas and tried to lead the staff to see what, why, and how the program would work, one staff member stayed totally silent, all the while engaging those around him with appropriate, timely smirks and occasionally rolling his eyes into the top of his head.

After the staff meeting, I took a few minutes to visit with him about his communication. You can imagine his response — "I didn't say one word in the whole meeting!" That was true, but he had definitely communicated his disagreement and even disdain for the ideas that were being presented.

It is difficult to deal with, though it happens in various ways every day. Parents see it. It occurs in courts, in doctor's offices, in pulpits and pews, and in presidential debates. The master communicator instructed his followers in the Sermon on the Mount: "Let your communication be 'yea,' 'yea,' or 'no,' 'no,' for anything beyond this is of evil." (Matt. 5:37)

If we listened to him we would discover that he clearly understood the issues — that

you can, with your mouth, say one thing — while with your eyes, body language, and tone, say something the very opposite! When we do that, then we can argue both ways: "That's not what I said!" or "It is what I said!" Jesus wanted us to know that he knew, whether anybody else knows or not, that we are playing games and it is deception, misrepresentation, or lies.

Millions of Americans watch the presidential debates and become analysts deciding whether what they are saying is really what they mean, or what they mean to say is the truth. In every passing relationship, and in every purposeful relationship, every day — all day, the multifaceted dimensions of communication goes on.

Smiles and smirks, glances and grimaces, raised eyebrows or lowered lips, all have something to say. All of these things, and a hundred more besides, create an environment for communication that enables us to convey opposite messages at the same moment. For instance: the words, "I love you" can be spoken to someone in such soft, caring tones that it literally lifts a person's heart and delights their soul. The same words can be spoken by a person while using a condescending look, accompanied by a sneer, and can cut someone's heart in two.

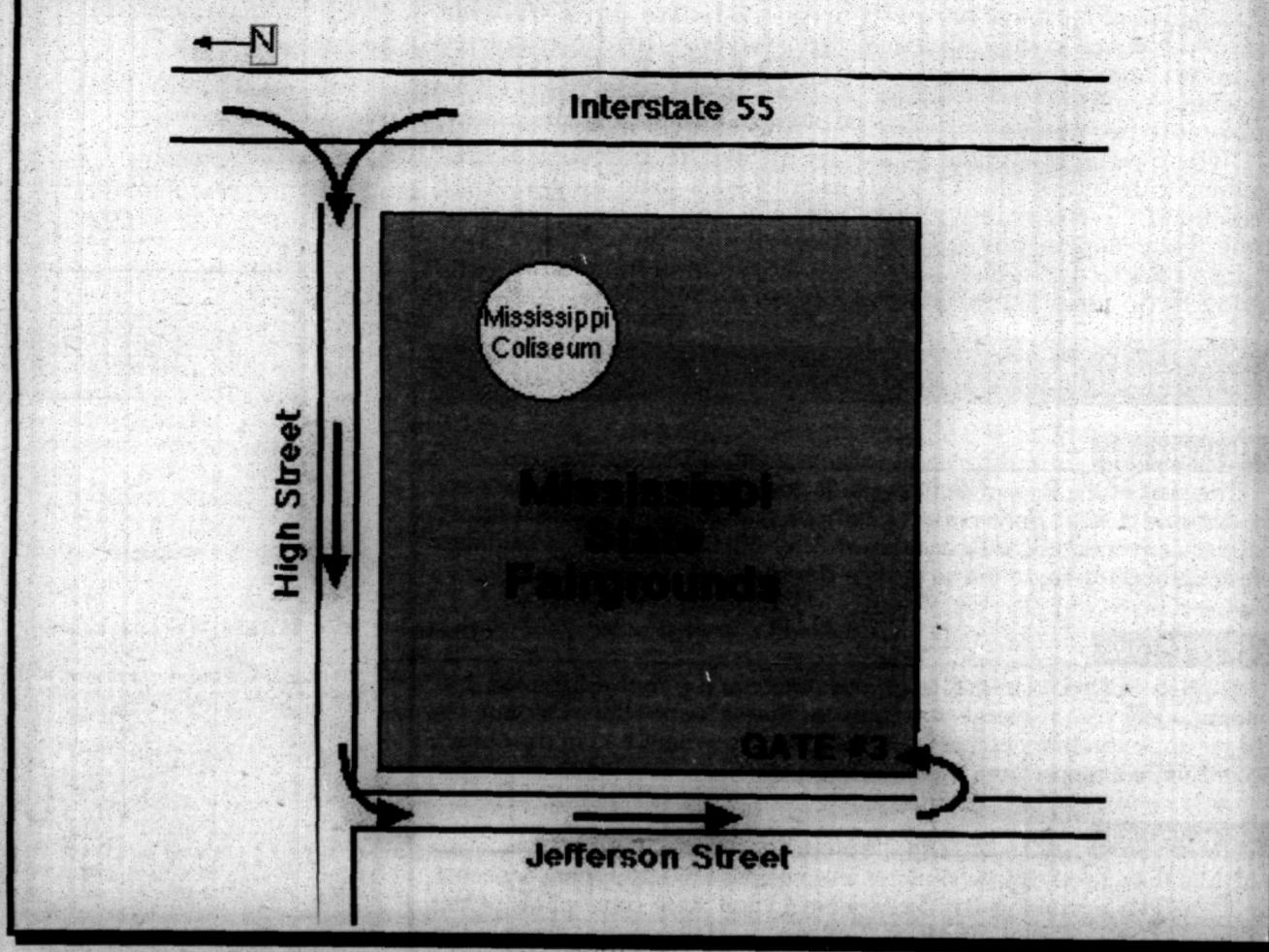
Maybe this problem, with the complexity of communication, is what has created barriers for the Christian world in communicating the Gospel. We have a wonderful Savior and great news from Heaven, that Jesus has come to save every soul who will trust him. He loves us, died for us, and is waiting to save us. Then a world looks at us and possibly detects an unconcern for them as people, and possibly even a dislike for each other, and begins to wonder if our communication is genuine.

May God help us, day by day, to let our "yes" be "yes," and our "no" be "no," and our love for Jesus be always!

## MBC parking plan announced

Due to ongoing major construction in the parking lots of First Church, Jackson, people attending the Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference on October 30 and the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting on October 31-November 1 are strongly encouraged to park in the secured area at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds just off Jefferson Street, and take the shuttle service to the conference.

Attendees should enter at gate number three at the southwest corner of the fairgrounds, across from the U.S. Naval Reserve headquarters.



# Firefighter ministers in scorched western states

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Breathing smoke, walking for miles on blistered feet in the August heat, and sleeping under the stars. These are just a few of the memories Bud Fritz has of traveling out West to help firefighters in a summer when some of the worst recorded forest fires burned. And

fighting fires wasn't the real reason Fritz wanted to go.

For Fritz, a member of First Church in Poplar Bluff, Mo., traveling deep into the hills around Scipio, Utah, and Salmon, Idaho, was all about forming relationships and ministering to his fire team from Mingo Job Corps in Puxico.

As a 14-year Job Corps educator, Fritz has had many opportunities to share his faith with young people, most from difficult backgrounds.

The fire team's responsibility was to go into areas that had burned, clean them up, and put out any small fires still-burning. Fritz talked to team members

while waiting for firefighters to clear an area.

On most days, the team awoke at 5:30 a.m. and returned around 10 p.m. Many firefighters carried 65-pound packs during long hikes through the wilderness. "There are going to be times when you want to quit," Fritz said.

Being away from his wife, Gayla, and two children made the trip out West even more difficult. Fritz said prayer support from his church meant a lot. Bill Vail, pastor of First Church, Poplar Bluff, said there was a natural concern for his safety.

"Anybody would be concerned when someone goes to

fight a fire, but we felt like he was in God's hands," Vail said.

"He does a great job with the kids he works with at Mingo."

Since returning, Fritz said, several fire team members have gone to church with him. "They've been coming pretty regularly. I hope they continue to come."



ON FIRE FOR CHRIST — Bud Fritz, a member of First Church in Poplar Bluff, Mo., recently traveled deep into the hills of Utah and Idaho to help fight forest fires. Fritz, an educator at Mingo Job Corps in Puxico, Mo., used the opportunity to form relationships and minister to the Job Corps fire team he accompanied.

**Special room rates for persons attending the 2000 Mississippi Baptist Convention, October 31-November 1, have been negotiated with the following hotels and motels. Be sure to ask for the Mississippi Baptist Convention rate when inquiring reservations.**

Clarion (601) 969-2141 \$59 single  
400 Greymont Avenue \$69 double

Edison Walthall (601) 948-6161 \$69 single  
225 E. Capitol \$79 double

Hampton Inn (601) 352-1700 \$69 single/double  
320 Greymont Avenue \$85 suite

Holiday Inn Express (601) 948-4466 \$69.95 two king beds  
310 Greymont Street continental breakfast buffet

Microtel Inn (601) 352-8282 \$60 double  
614 Monroe Street \$65 suite  
complimentary breakfast

Red Roof Inn Coliseum (601) 969-5006 \$41.99 single  
I-55 at High Street \$46.99 double  
\$51.99 business king

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs of First Church, Crystal Springs



Acteens of First Church, Crystal Springs

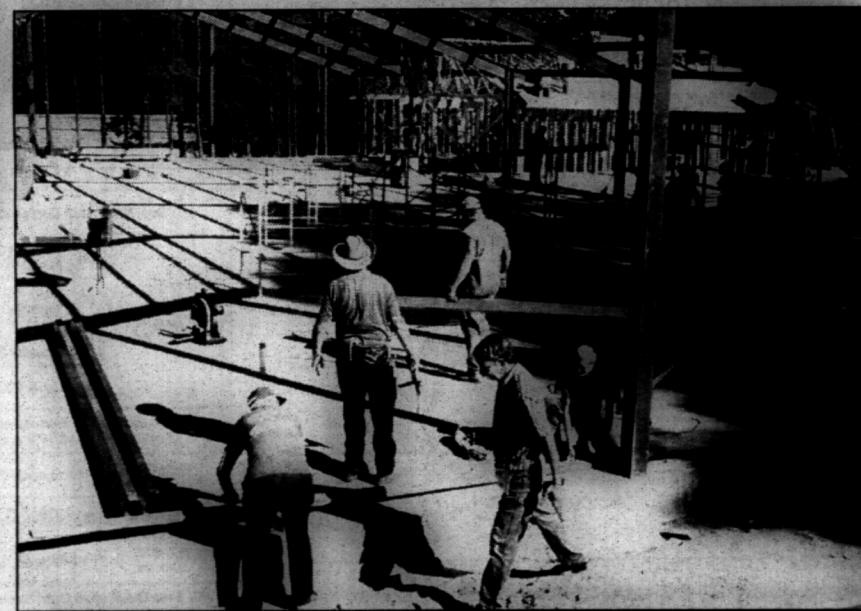
**GA and Acteen Recognition Services** were recently held at First Church, Crystal Springs. GAs pictured (from left, back row) are Katie Sprouse, Molly McNeill, Dabny Campbell, Anna Beasley, Jessie Miller, and Elizabeth Shull; (front row) Madelon Cline, Clair Mitchell, Katie Holder, Angela Shull, Caroline Mosley, Kara Stafford, and Aimee Walters. Acteens receiving the honor of Queen (pictured) are Rachel Berry, Jenna Johnson, Amelia Shull, and Kellie Walters. Receiving the honor of Queen with Scepter were Olivia Lang, Morgan Sprouse, and Mallory Sullivan. Receiving the honor of Queen Regent were Lori Walters and Marcy McDonald.



Mission Friends of Mount Vernon Church, Meridian



Children in Action of Mount Vernon Church, Meridian



**First Church, Shady Grove, Heidelberg**, held its first work day on Sept. 16 for its new church. The church will include an auditorium, fellowship hall, and educational facilities. Members (pictured) working are Bill Smith, David Ulmer, Hilburn Sellers, Eddie White, and Ricky Smith. Stanley Doggett is pastor.

**Harvest Fest 2000** will be held at Bethesda Church, Terry, starting at 4 p.m., on Oct. 28. Marty Wilson is pastor.

**Bayou View Church, Gulfport**, will have its Fall Festival on Oct. 28 from 3:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. For more information, call the church at (228) 863-2482.

**Thorn Hill Church, Pelahatchie**, will host The Masters Quartet of Booneville in concert on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m.

**Calvary Church, Durant**, will have a singing on Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. The featured guests will be Jerry and Spin Smith. Jerry Smith is a former pastor of Calvary Church.

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Sponsored by JEM Ministry - James E. Messer

Cypress Shores Baptist Church • Mobile, Alabama

Wednesday - November 1

6:00 p.m.

Pre-session music  
with Gary Miller

6:30 p.m.

Randy Johnson  
Harold Hunter  
Jim McNeil

Thursday - November 2

6:00 p.m.

Pre-session music  
with Phil Willis and  
H.I.S.

6:30 p.m.

Phil Hoskins  
Junior Hill  
Ted Traylor

Friday - November 3

6:00 p.m.

Pre-session music  
with Phil Willis and  
Steve Walker

6:30 p.m.

Step Martin  
James Messer  
Bailey Smith

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HouseTops.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 19, 2000

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

## HANDBELLS

### STATE HANDBELL FESTIVALS

First Baptist Church, Tupelo  
April 20-21, 2001

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
April 27-28, 2001

### STATE FESTIVAL HANDBELL MUSIC

#### Group I

"A Joyous Alleluia" Sysan Geschke, CGB 226, 3 oct. Chorister's Guild  
"Canon of Grace" arr. Linda Lamb, AP 19009, 3 oct. Alfred

#### Group II

"Morningdance" Cathy Moklebust, CGB 218, 3-5 oct. Chorister's Guild  
"Do You Hear What I Hear?" Tammy Waldrop, #2143, 4-6 oct. Agape

#### Combined

"The Morning Trumpet" Linda Lamb, CGB 225, 3-5 oct. Chorister's Guild  
"Sanctuary" arr. Patricia Sanders Cota, #2097, 3-5 oct. Agape  
"Here I Am, Lord" Arnold B. Sherman, #2140, 3-5 oct. Agape  
\*\*"Here I Am, Lord" Arnold B. Sherman #C 5087, Choral, Agape

\*The Choral arrangement is also available to use with your choir which can be accompanied by the handbell arrangement.

## YOUNG RINGERS' STATE FESTIVAL

Oak Forest Baptist Church, Jackson  
March 24, 2001

### YOUNG RINGERS' FESTIVAL MUSIC

#### Group I

"Now Thank We All Our God" Bisbee, GP 2014, 3-4 oct. Genesis Press  
"Tall Walls-Fall" Waldrop, AP 19001, 2-3 oct. Alfred

#### Group II

"A Trumpet Chorale" Bach/arr. Simpson, #2137, 2-3 oct. Agape  
"All Things Bright and Beautiful" Susan Geschke, MAG 23017, 2-3 oct. AGEHR

#### Combined

"An English Christmas" arr. Helman, AP 19020, 2-3 oct. Alfred  
"Joyful Rhythm" Kevin McChesney, CGB 219, 2-3 Oct. Chorister's Guild

Music is now available at LifeWay Christian Store in Jackson, 20% discount for an order of 10 or more copies of the same title. You may also order from your supplier. Select the festival or festivals you will be attending and the music for that festival. Group I (less difficult) or Group II (challenging), and the combined numbers.

Call the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 266 or 292-3266 for more information.

## 2001 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra

### October 2000 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Thursday, 19th 4-8 p.m.  
Saturday, 21st 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Brookhaven  
Thomas Fine Arts Building,  
William Carey College, Hattiesburg

### November 2000 Choral and Orchestral Auditions

Thursday, 2nd 4-8 p.m.  
Saturday, 4th 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday, 11th 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Thursday, 16th 4-8 p.m.  
Saturday, 18th 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fairview BC, Columbus  
North Oxford BC, Oxford  
North Greenwood BC, Greenwood  
First Baptist Church, Meridian  
Aven Hall  
Mississippi College, Clinton

Notice!!!  
Fewer locations, but  
longer hours than last  
year!

(NOTE: **ALL** instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.)

#### Instrumental auditions will include:

- A prepared piece
- Scales
- Sight reading
- Technique and tune

Register through the Church Music Department two weeks prior to audition.

Call the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 266 or 292-3266 for more information.

Visit our website at [www.mbc.org/cm/allstate](http://www.mbc.org/cm/allstate) for a registration form. Youth must be 9th - 12th graders to audition.



### *Missions Banquet*

*Keynote Speaker*

**Harry Lewis**

Director of  
Strategic Planning  
Section

North American  
Mission Board

*Special Music*  
**Luz del Mundo**  
(Light of the World)

# *Lay Missions Conference*

*"The Difference One Can Make"*

**Monday, October 30, 2000**

*Interest Conferences, 3 p.m.*

Agricultural Missions  
Educational Missions  
Volunteers in Missions

Construction Projects  
Campers on Mission  
Global Priority Network

**First Baptist Church, Brandon**

*Missions Banquet, 5 p.m.*

Dinner  
Music  
Recognitions  
Message

## *Registration Form*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ dinner reservations at \$8.50 per person.

Mail to: Men's Ministry Department, MBCB; Missions Banquet  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

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ON THE ROAD TO  
FINANCIAL FREEDOM**



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toll-free 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 292-3347.*

#### **BENEFITS**

- ◆ A biblically-based philosophy of money
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- ◆ A way to get out of debt, **beginning today**
- ◆ Deep appreciation from your members

## **A SINGLES NITE OUT FEATURING**



## **PAID IN FULL**

**October 21, 2000 at 7 p.m.  
Oakhurst Baptist Church Activity Center  
828 West Second Street  
Clarksdale**

Sponsored by:  
North Delta Baptist Association  
Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept., MBCB  
Oakhurst Baptist Church  
*A love offering will be accepted.*

# Youth Ministers Workshop 2000

Lake Tiak O'Khata

Louisville

November 13-15

## Finances

The charge for lodging and meals is the only cost for this conference. Payment is to be made to Lake Tiak O' Khata and not to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. All prices include tax and gratuity.

The motel group plan for this workshop includes two (2) nights' lodging and five (5) meals. The five meals are Monday (dinner), Tuesday (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and Wednesday (breakfast).

Motel group plan per person is:

\$146.25 for single occupancy  
\$ 98.15 for double occupancy  
\$ 81.35 for triple occupancy  
\$ 72.95 for quad occupancy

One night's lodging and three (3) meals plan per person cost is:

\$ 76.75 for single occupancy  
\$ 52.70 for double occupancy  
\$ 44.30 for triple occupancy  
\$ 40.10 for quad occupancy

## Reservations

For motel lodging reservations, please call Lake Tiak O'Khata at (662) 773-7853, toll free at (888) 845-6151 or fax at (662) 773-4555. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 160, Smyth Road, Louisville, MS 39339. A block of rooms is being held for this conference until October 30 (two weeks before the first day of the workshop). At that time all rooms on hold will be released. Each room must be individually reserved and guaranteed with a deposit by this date. Cancellation policy is one week prior to arrival date. Please clip and return the registration form at right to Matt Buckles, CAPM Dept., P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or fax to Matt at (601) 714-7426 or E-mail your registration to Matt at mbuckles@mbcb.org. Remember: Lodging reservations must be with Lake Tiak O'Khata.

## Preschool Childcare

Preschool childcare will be provided at First Baptist Church, Louisville, at no additional cost.

## Registration Form

Youth Ministers Workshop, November 13-15, 2000

Lake Tiak O'Khata

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_ Number and Age of Preschoolers (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I have made lodging reservations at Lake Tiak O'Khata.

I do not need a room, but will plan to eat the following meals there:

Monday dinner  Tuesday breakfast  Tuesday lunch  
 Tuesday dinner  Wednesday breakfast

I plan to play in the Golf Tournament on Tuesday afternoon (Harvey Ellis - MBCB is the contact)

Please clip and return to Matt Buckles, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530.

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES

First Baptist Church, Jackson  
Fifth Floor Lobby  
Monday, October 30, 2000  
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

• There is no cost for this conference. But we request that everyone send in the registration form.

• Child care will be available for preschoolers on a limited basis. Please indicate on the registration form your preschool child care needs (by October 23). If needed, the phone number for FBC, Jackson, is 601-949-1900.

\*\*\*\*\* **Registration Form** \*\*\*\*\*

Complete the registration form and return to Matt Buckles, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 or fax to 601-714-7426 or E-mail this information to mbuckles@mbcb.org.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Husband's Position \_\_\_\_\_

(If needed) Names and birth dates of preschool children you will bring \_\_\_\_\_



Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"WHEN GOD SAYS 'PRAY,' He really means it. To pray is the most commonly mentioned command in Scripture. It is mentioned more than "love your neighbor," more than "go to church," and more than "evangelize." More than anything else, God calls us to pray.

- Max Lucado

International Service Corp workers Chris and Lori Heil have returned from Brazil to attend seminary. Pray that the new Christians whom they have trained as leaders will be faithful in outreach. Ask God to guide Chris and Lori as they consider returning to Brazil as career missionaries.

Pray for students in Taiwan who want to believe in Christ but their parents are adamantly against their children's Christianity. One student who recently visited a Christian bookstore had her life threatened by her mother but the student's father intervened and protected her.

Children leaving home to go to college is especially stressful for missionaries. But give thanks to God that the daughter of missionaries in Brazil is rooming with a committed Christian whose dad came to Christ through the ministry of Southern Baptist missionaries.

Imagine how it would be if your Bible were written in an unknown language. The Tajumulco Mam Team of Western Guatemala asks you to pray that the translation team will experience great spiritual victory as they deeply study God's Word in order to put it into Mam.

For (1) Outreach Strategy Tour (SS); (2) Pray for the singles ministry that journeyman Jayme Rogers and a national Christian have started in Bosnia. (3) Missionaries in the Indian Ocean Islands ask you to pray that the necessary work permits and visas will be granted for new workers.

For (1) MBCB Meeting; (2) Ministers' Wives Conference (CAPM); (3) Lay Missions Conference

30

For (1) MBCB Executive Committee Meeting; (2) Missionaries will be living for three months in a very remote location of the Sahara, Northern Africa. Pray for them as they work and minister in that area where there is a great deal of spiritual warfare.

For (1) Chaplains' Annual Fall Banquet (SID); (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention, Oct. 31-Nov 1; (3) Jim Stratford, church planter pastor in Ware, Mass., has 6 to ten people from surrounding communities who regularly attend the church. Pray that the people of the town will feel spiritual needs.

Pray for a Peruvian couple who are church planters among the urban poor of Lima, where half of the population is either unemployed or underemployed. Many are searching for stability and peace in their lives. Ask God to bless their vision to plant a church in every neighborhood of Lima.

For (1) Bi-vocational Ministers/Ministers Wives Breakfast (CAPM); (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting; immediately following the last session of the convention.

Please pray for the missionary units serving in the northern frontier of Eastern Africa. In the last six months several different units have experienced situations with gunfire and guns being pointed at them. Pray for God's peace and wisdom as they confront these situations. Thank the Lord for the safety He has given thus far.

For (1) Women Reaching Women (Witness Team); (2) Pray today for President Ali Mohammad Khatami-Ardakani of Iran and President Saddam Hussain of Iraq.

20

For (1) African American Church Leadership Institute (SID); (2) Pray for God to grant open doors for gospel ministry and boldness to His servants who travel throughout Laos proclaiming the good news.

21

## YOUNG MUSICIANS' FESTIVAL NEWS FLASH!!!



March 31, 2001

Guest Conductor:

Steve Roddy

Director of

The Houston Children's Chorus  
Houston, Texas

Mississippi College Coliseum  
8:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## MADE TO PRAISE

Join us for an exciting day of praise and worship.

Music: Order the Winter Young Musicians' Magazine on the dated literature form. Songs included are "Joshua," "Lead Me," "Seek Ye First," and "Thy Word is a Treasure."

One additional anthem will be available at LifeWay Christian Stores, "The Most High God" by Williams/Hayes, Fred Bock, BG2271.

For more information, please call the Church Music Department, 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3271 in the Jackson area.



4-86 Miss Katie R. Gray  
Rua Professor Manuel Ferreira  
171 Apt 1108 Gavea 22451-030  
Rio de Janeiro/RJ, BRAZIL  
Parents: Tony & Karen  
Church Planting  
SERVE IN Eastern South America

6-88 Miss Marisa M. Womble  
3503 LEMMINGTON RD  
Pensacola FL 32504  
Parents: Freddie & Karen, Church Planting  
SERVE IN Eastern South America

13-78 Mr. T. Kyle White  
PO Box 864888, Tuscaloosa AL 35486-0044  
Parents: Jerry & Glenda, Church Planting, SERVE IN Western Pacific

14-85 Mr. Allen D. Lightsey  
2030 Hyman Place, New Orleans, LA 70131  
Parents: Timothy & Rebecca, Literature Distribution  
SERVE IN Middle America

20-85 Miss Kimberly D. Shearer  
12 Crosswoods Rd., Brandon MS 39042  
Parents: Kevin & Pamela, Strategy, SERVE IN Western South America

20-78 Mr. John A. Latham  
Baylor University, PO Box 81835, Waco, TX 76798  
Parents: Tony & Kathy, Community Outreach  
SERVE in Central & Eastern Europe

20-83 Miss Michelle S. Shearer  
12 Crosswoods Rd., Brandon MS 39042  
Parents: Kevin & Pamela, Strategy, SERVE IN Western South America

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs of Port Gibson Church, Port Gibson

**GAs of Port Gibson Church, Port Gibson**, participated in an awards presentation on Aug. 27. Pictured (from left, back row) are Robin Keels, consultant in Women's Missionary Union, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, featured speaker; Stacey Bufkin, Lynn Selden, Nancy Hatcher, Lori Bufkin, Judy Boolos, and Debbie Barrett, leaders; (middle row) Brianna Bessley, Callie Brown, Holly Fagan, Cassie Bufkin, and Gingin Brown; (front row) Cristin Windham, Hannah Barrett, Amanda Bufkin, Danielle Lurk, Mary Drake, and Kaitlyn Ellis. Judy Hynum is director of GAs.

**Cross Roads Church, Webster Association**, will celebrate its 130th anniversary on Oct. 29. Worship services will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by dinner on the grounds. Billy Floyd of Batesville, former pastor, will be the featured speaker.

**Harvest Day** will be held on Oct. 22 at Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc Association. Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. with Glen Reeder as guest speaker. Lunch will follow the service. The Locust Hill puppets and the Landmarks will be performing during the afternoon. Charles Stubblefield is interim pastor.

**Indian Springs Church, Laurel**, will present Anthony Burger in concert on Sunday, Oct. 22, at 6:30 p.m. Burger has appeared as guest artist for the Gaither Vocal Band and the Bill Gaither Trio. For more information, call (601) 428-1279.

**Youth groups and adults** from Auburn Church, Lee Association, and Priceville Church, Lee Association, served on a mission trip to The Baptist Children's Village in both Water Valley and Independence. Activities included constructing decks, cutting trees, trimming trees and underbrush, weeding

around the properties, and painting. Pictured (from left, top to bottom) are Amy Gregory, Terry Ramey, Laura Eaton, Davis O'Neal, Kristi Andrews, McCain Pearce, Mallory Dillard, Lacy Malone, Cathy Bradley, Elizabeth Mitchell, Aundrea McCullen, Amber Farri, Brandy Conley, Brittany Pace, Amanda Gable, Ginder Alexander, Ty Sisk, Caleb Ramey, Ed Tedford, Kenny Alred, Kirk Green, John Barron, Rob Bucci, John Mark Webb, Billy Kyle, Paul Hood, Tim McMillin, David Christian, Bobby Burt, and Donney Pearce. Not pictured are Dawn Bradley, Kim Green, Todd Browning, Jennifer Newsom, and Jason Murphree.



Mission team from Auburn Church and Priceville Church, Lee Association

**Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.**

**Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery**

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**SEEKING FULL-TIME YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTER** for FBC Raleigh. Resumes may be faxed to (601) 782-9124, e-mailed to oln@megagate.com, or mailed to FBC Raleigh, P.O. Box 249, Raleigh, MS 39153. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Rev. O. Lyn Nations at (601) 782-4580 or (601) 782-9231.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**. Good computer skills. Please submit resume to Morrison Heights Baptist Church, ATTN: Richard Collum, 201 Morrison Drive, Clinton, MS 39056. Phone (601) 924-5620; fax (601) 924-5622.

**PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR**. Send resume to Trinity Baptist church, 2610 Napoleon Avenue, Pearl, MS 39208. request application (662) 262-5507. Fax resume (662) 262-5570.

**PART-TIME (BI-VOCATIONAL) MINISTER OF MUSIC**. Housing available. Thirty minutes from Memphis. Send resume to Slayden Baptist Church, 2534 Highway 72, Lamar, MS 38642 or call (662) 252-4559 or (662) 252-4520. Fax: (662) 252-5248. E-mail: sbchurch@dixie-net.com.

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED**. Send resume to: Twin Lakes Baptist Church, c/o Hugh Smith, 673 Cavalier Road, Madison, MS 39110.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC**, **PART-TIME PIANIST**. Send resume, references, and picture to: Music Search Committee, Kilmichael Baptist Church, P.O. Box 142, Kilmichael, MS 39747.

RATE: 60 cents per word, \$6 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. **ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED**.

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**ATTENTION**: committed couples to work full-time with "at-risk" children in residential setting. Opportunities throughout Alabama. Minimum HS diploma. Benefits include BC/BS PMD, TDA, life insurance, sick leave, vacation, living expenses. Call 1-800-548-4256 or write to Box 240009 Montgomery, AL 36124-0009.

**PARADISE LANES**: Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

**USE THE POWER OF THE INTERNET** in your minister search. On ministrypositions.com, churches can post job openings or search for candidates online. Ministerial candidates can post their resume and search job openings. An easy-to-use confidential service to help ministers and churches connect. Visit [www.ministrypositions.com](http://www.ministrypositions.com) or call (800) 417-2123.

**GUILFORD BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENSBORO, N.C.**, is seeking a full-time associate pastor whose primary ministry will be education, administration, and outreach. We are a progressive missions-minded congregation of 800 resident members. Potential candidates must be seminary graduates with staff experience. Please send resume to: Personnel committee, Guilford Baptist Church, 5904 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27409.

**FBC OF GRAVETTE, ARKANSAS** is seeking a full-time pastor. We will be accepting resumes until Nov. 15, 2000. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, FBCG, P.O. Box 824, Gravette, AR 72736.

**DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS?** Restoration Ranch is a Christ-centered working residence for the recovering substance abuser who needs long term rehabilitation. We are an IRS 501 (C-3) non-profit charity. Court and pastoral referral preferred. (601) 655-8877 Meridian.

**INTERIOR ELEMENTS STAINED GLASS STUDIO**: Custom church windows. Columbus - toll free 1-877-477-1899.

**BRANSON, MO CONDO** - sleeps six.

Stay 3 nights, 4th free or 5 nights, 2 free. Free coffee, tea, and cocoa. \$100.00 daily. Register for free return trip. Call early for reservations 662-746-4632.

**FOR SALE**: 51 church pews and pulpit furniture. Pews are 13 foot long. Cost \$4,995.00. Call (601) 763-7571.

**WANTED: A CHRISTIAN COUPLE** who seeks the Lord in a full-time ministry. You can minister to children who have fallen victim to broken homes, abandonment, abuse, and neglect. Come and help us make a difference in lives of these children. They need your love and your Christian witness. Call Jerry Taylor at Palmer Home for Children (662) 328-5216 or e-mail me at [jandjservhlm@cs.com](mailto:jandjservhlm@cs.com). See us at [www.palmerhome.org](http://www.palmerhome.org).

**FOR SALE**: church furniture including 22 curved pews, pulpit, open communion table, and two preacher chairs. All furniture is dark oak wood and mauve padded cushions. Asking \$3,000. To view or for more information, please call (601) 425-3259, (601) 764-2560, or (601) 764-4498.

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC.** Old Bibles rebound. Also church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

**HAMMOND ORGAN**. Internal Leslie \$3500. Contact Jodie Wright at (601) 442-9832.

**SUPER GRACE BEACH HOUSE** for rent. Excellent for staff retreat or family vacation. 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, screened porch, located directly on the beach at Fort Morgan, AL. Private subdivision. Call Allan or Linda Rankin at 1-888-784-4025.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### DON'T OBSERVE SOWEN

Editor:

A few centuries ago the Catholic Church found many pagans in their communities celebrating a holiday called Sowen. I won't go into the details of this Satanic celebration because I believe the readers of this understand the evil involved. The thought process of the Catholics must have been that the people had to celebrate this holiday in some fashion so their solution was to rename the holiday. The holiday was renamed "All Saints Day" or "All Hallow's Eve" or as we call it now "Halloween." The plan failed to produce the results desired. Instead of turning this satanic holiday into a Christian holiday, it gave this evil celebration a better foundation so it could continue for centuries.

We now face the same decisions the Catholics did years ago. Are we so tied to this holiday that we have to have some sort of celebration on Oct. 31? I would like to urge fellow followers of Christ to pray sincerely about this subject before renaming the holiday again and holding celebrations called "Fall Festival," "Family Fun Night," etc. in our churches across the state.

Mitchell Davis  
Lucedale

### NO CONTRADICTION

Editor:

A recent guest opinion, "What's the Problem with Evolution?" generated heated response. The creationist book, Darwin's Black Box, was dismissed by scientists because of its tactic of argument from ignorance.

Basically, Behe says that because he can't imagine something evolving, then that is proof enough that it did not evolve. Many secular scientists today have expressed a belief that evolution and the Big Bang actually point to an intelligent creator.

When the COBE (Cosmic Background Explorer) experiment discovered the background radiation left over from the Big Bang, the director of that experiment, George Smoot, exclaimed, "It was like looking

at God!" Young-earthers are turning more and more secularists away from God by telling them that the proof secularists have for God is wrong. The fossil record of man is so compelling, yet many Christians still refuse to accept it.

Piltdown Man was a proven hoax, but the others are not. The best young-earthers can do with the exceptional human fossil record is to say the earliest were mere apes, the most recent were simply humans, and the intermediates are fakes.

They can offer no proof, only speculation based on their beliefs. Evolution is not based on any belief system. New and incipient species have been documented due to artificial selection, where human interference is used to speed up evolution so that it can be observed in human time. There is no contradiction between the biblical creation and evolutionary order, except for those who misinterpret the Scriptures.

Michael Williams  
Clinton



# LifeAnswers

Ron Mumawer, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*A friend of my ten-year-old daughter was sexually molested by a man who was subsequently arrested. She has explained to my daughter in graphic detail what happened to her, so what do I do now?*

At age ten, your daughter is moving into puberty and has the ability to understand some of what she has heard. Even though you did not plan on discussing this topic with your daughter at this time, you are now required to do so. Select a quiet, unhurried time. Allow her to ask questions. Have a book ready if you do not know the words or feel uncomfortable discussing the terms with her. Here is a wonderful opportunity to discuss with her the realities of life, and how to choose friends and proper relation-

ships. At ten she is beginning to make some decisions for herself, but she also needs assurances that you are there when crisis comes. Be sure to pray for her and with her and assure her of God's presence even in difficult situations. If you do nothing, her fear will grow larger than it should. Banishing the darkness and speaking the truth to your child will empower her and encourage her spiritual walk.

*I am a devout Christian, but I am desperately drawn to a man who is not my husband. How can I keep from giving into this overwhelming lust?*

What is behind your desperation (which is never a reason to enter a relationship)? Are there unmet needs in your life? Does this man offer anything more

*Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. In central Mississippi, Ron Mumawer can be heard from 9-10 a.m. each Wednesday on WHJT-FM 93.5. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.*

### REVIVAL DATES

**Georgetown, Georgetown:** Nov. 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Brian Tyndall, evangelist; Steve Walker, music; Todd Stewart, pastor.

**Center, Union County:** 70th anniversary; Oct. 29-Nov. 3; Sunday, homecoming service at 10 a.m. with Billy Lee Foley bringing the message; noon fellowship meal followed by Walk by Faith in concert; night services at 7 p.m.; Mon., Archie Goodwin; Tues., Danny Armstrong; Wed., Hyman Hatcher; Thurs., Lawrence Runnels; and Fri., Preston Latch; Walk by Faith will be leading the music each night; Randy Sharp, pastor.

**Corinth, Purvis:** Oct. 29-31; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; James Messer, evangelist; Phillip Butler, music.

**Antioch, Prentiss:** Oct. 22-25; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; lunch will be served; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James E. Messer Sr., evangelist; Huber Greer, Wesson, music; Larry W. Yarber, pastor.

**Big Level, Wiggins:** Nov. 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Durwood Broughton, evangelist; Andy Hadley, music; David Perry, pastor.

**Eastwood, Indianola:** Nov. 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; S.A. (Sonny) Adkins, director, Evangelism

**Central, McNeill:** Oct. 22-25; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed Jenkins, evangelist; Ray Walker, music; Billy Galloway, pastor.

**Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board:** evangelist; Danny L. Brock, Brandon, music; Billy Thomas, pastor.

**Shiloh (Carroll):** Oct. 22-25; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Jackson, evangelist; Scott Coleman, music; Doug Warren, pastor.

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Hardin, Franklin, and Dodd

**First Church, Picayune**, ordained two new deacons on Oct. 1. Pictured are Bill Hardin, pastor; Craig Franklin and Donald Dodd, deacons.

**Gabriel Snyder** (right) was licensed to the gospel ministry by **Agricola Church**, Lucedale, on Aug. 6. He is a second-year ministerial student at **Liberty University** in Lynchburg, Va. Snyder is available for Disciple Now Weekends, one-day

Tommy and Gabriel Snyder

## HOMECOMINGS

**Ludlow (Scott)**: Oct. 22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in Family Life Center; Taylor Wallace, former pastor, preaching; Dwight Cooper, music; M. L. Wallace, pastor.

**Zion Hill, Wesson**: cemetery day; Oct. 29; services, 10:45 a.m. followed by lunch on the grounds.

**Bentonia (Yazoo)**: Nov. 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner at noon; 1:30 p.m., music celebration coordinated by Cooper DeLoach, associate pastor of music ministries; Joe E. Wright, former pastor, guest speaker.

**Montgomery (Lincoln)**: Oct. 22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; followed by

fellowship dinner; Wayne Moak, Brookhaven, speaker; Mignonne (Pris) Price, Summit, music; 1:30 p.m. singing by The Providentials.

**First, Coffeeville**: Nov. 5; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish meal in the Family Life Center; Larry Kilgore, guest speaker; Vicki Hale, music; Daniel Hathorne, pastor.

**Macedonia, Meridian**: Nov. 5; 11 a.m.; R. L. Hunnicutt, Kemper County, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall followed by singing; Jason C. Gross, pastor.

Tournament Oct. 23 at Canebrake Golf Course. Larry Kennedy, president of WCC, and the Richard Price family of Columbia will serve as hosts for the tournament. Lunch will be served at noon with tee time following at 1 p.m. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the new student center at WCC. For information and registration forms for the tournament, call John Stewart at (601) 582-6192.

**Winters School of Music** at William Carey College will present David Forbat in concert Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Dumas Smith Auditorium, Hattiesburg campus. Forbat serves as assistant professor of music and teaches applied piano and related courses in piano literature and pedagogy. The concert will feature the works of Beethoven, Chopin, and Ravel.

**Larry Newell**, a native of Mobile, Ala., has joined the Blue Mountain College faculty this fall as director of choral activities and voice. Newell earned the bachelor of music education, master of music education, and doctorate of music education degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Newell

He currently served as pianist at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. Newell is married to the former Joyce Rutland of Hattiesburg, and they have two sons, Jeffrey and Joseph.

The Mississippi Theatre Association / Kennedy Center / American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) will be held Nov. 2 through 4 at Mississippi State University in Starkville. William Carey College will perform "And David Danced" at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3. For more information about the festival call Jeanna Graves at (601) 582-6218, or Sue Hinton at (662) 325-7951.

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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Free at last

Exodus 12:1-3, 11-13; 13:1-2, 11-16

By Heather Cumberland

Our lesson today begins with the Passover. God had sent nine plagues on Egypt and he was preparing the Israelites for the last one—the death of the first born sons of the disobedient.

Pharaoh's heart was hardened and the Lord had tried many other avenues to soften Pharaoh's heart. When all else had failed, the Lord decided to kill the first born son of every disobedient family.

God gave the Israelites meticulous instructions on how to prepare for the Passover. They were to do many things, one of which was to select a lamb for their families, slaughter it, and wipe the blood on the sides

and top of the door frame.

When the Lord came that night to strike down the first-born of every family, he would pass over the ones who listened to and obeyed his instructions (12:21-23).

Despair struck Egypt that night. According to Exodus 12:29-30, "at midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of the livestock as well. Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead."

Although God had to go to extreme measures to get Pharaoh's attention, it worked. Pharaoh summoned Moses immediately and told him to take the Israelites and leave. The other people in Egypt hurried them. They wanted the Israelites to leave so that God would not kill any more Egyptians.

At first glance, we may say that between the Israelites and the Egyptians, the Israelites were the ones in bondage. They were in physical bondage, as many of us are. Most of us have some type of physical bondage. We may have legs that do not work right, eyes that cannot see, or ears that cannot hear.

The Egyptians, however, were in spiritual bondage. They were living with no hope.

The Israelites, even while enslaved to the Egyptians, were free because they had

hope. They knew that one day, even if it were in death, they would be free.

Many non-Christians claim that Christians are not truly free because they have to answer to a higher power. Non-Christians brag that they are the ones that are free because they answer to no one.

This truly breaks my heart. Not only are the unsaved in terrible spiritual bondage, but they cannot even see what they are missing.

They are missing the compassion, peace, and comfort of a God who loves unconditionally. They are missing the opportunity to be saved from a life of sorrow and destruction, if they will only ask for this salvation.

In life we can choose to be like the Egyptians and continue to live in spiritual bondage. We can live each day doing our own thing and living by our own rules.

If you are living that way now, think about your future.

Things may be going well for you at this moment, but what happens when you lose your money, your health, or both? Will you still be happy?

If you choose Christ, you choose hope in any situation. If we have Christ, we have comfort through death, guidance through financial hardships, and help in times of trouble. The road will not always be an easy one. God will allow your faith to be tested.

God tested the faith of the Israelites when they reached the Red Sea (14:8-12). They had a huge body of water in front of them and the Egyptian army behind them.

Many of them wanted to go back to Egypt but the majority of them had the faith to follow God and he led them safely across the Red Sea (21-22). Their obedience to Christ made them free at last!

Cumberland is advertising coordinator for *The Baptist Record*.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Overcoming prejudice

Acts 10:9-36

By Wayne VanHorn

Our current unit of study, "Growing in Understanding," began with a look at the need to accept new Christians. This week's lesson ties growth in understanding to overcoming prejudice.

All people are prejudiced to some degree. Our efficiency at rationalizing prejudice makes it difficult to overcome. As Christians we must admit our prejudice to God, acknowledge his desire for us to move beyond it, and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower us to outgrow it.

To help us understand prejudice and how to overcome it, our lesson focuses on the tension between the Jews and the Gentiles and the difference that the Holy Spirit made in the lives of Peter (Jewish) and Cornelius (Gentile).

#### Revelation of prejudice (vv. 9-15).

Peter's rooftop vision forms the key to understanding God's view of prejudice. Peter was praying at noon on the roof of the home of Simon the tanner. Peter's hunger provided God with the opportunity to teach Peter a valuable lesson about prejudice (v. 10).

Peter was an "observant Jew" meaning that he obeyed the dietary laws as prescribed in Leviticus 11. Peter saw a vision of a sheet lowered from heaven and filled with all kinds of animals, including some considered "unclean" by the Law.

God's command for Peter to kill and to eat was rebutted by the adamant apostle who insisted on his strict observance of the dietary laws even above the present command of God. Peter based his refusal on the

grounds of not eating anything impure (Greek *koinos*) or unclean (Greek *akathartos*).

Peter's refusal is met with a stern rebuff, "Do not call anything impure (Greek *koinos*) that God has made clean (Greek *katharizo*). Peter's vision and God's command ended at the precise moment the delegation sent by Cornelius the day before from Caesarea (35 miles north of Joppa) arrived at the door of Simon's home. The Spirit instructed Peter to go with them (vv. 16-20).

**Rejection of prejudice (vv. 27-29).** The events surrounding Cornelius and Peter happened across a four-day period. On day one Cornelius (Gentile) had a vision resulting in a delegation being sent to bring Peter (Jewish) from Joppa to Caesarea (vv. 1-8).

On day two the delegation from Caesarea arrived in Joppa at Simon's house just as Peter was pondering the meaning of his vision and God's command (10:9-23a). The delegation with Peter and six Jewish brothers

(11:12) headed back to Caesarea on day three (v. 23b). They arrived at Cornelius's house on day four (v. 24) and Peter preached to a full house at the same hour as Cornelius's vision three days earlier (v. 30).

The precise timing of the delegation's arrival at Simon's home (v. 17), coupled with Peter's arrival at Cornelius's house at the precise hour of day that Cornelius had seen his vision, indicates that God was working on both ends to bring Cornelius (Gentile) and Peter (Jew) together. Peter the Jew was able to enter the home of Cornelius the Gentile (vv. 27-28) because the Spirit enabled him to do so (10:19; 11:12).

The key verse for understanding God's view toward prejudice and how the Holy Spirit enabled Peter to overcome his prejudice is Acts 10:28. Peter applied the meaning of his vision not to food but to people! Peter told Cornelius, "God has shown me that I should not call any man impure (Greek *koinos*) or unclean (Greek *akathartos*). Peter witnessed God pouring out his Spirit "even on the Gentiles" (v. 45).

**Elimination of prejudice (vv. 34-36).** Having heard Cornelius's side of the story, Peter drove home the point that God does not show favoritism toward anyone, not even toward the Jews over the Gentiles!

This realization was a giant step away from the prejudice that Peter and all Jews felt toward Gentiles. Being Christian would be much different than being Jewish! Christians today need to meditate upon this point carefully.

God "accepts men from every nation (Greek *ethnos*) who fear him and do what is right" (v. 35). God's acceptance brings "peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all" (v. 36).

Since God accepts people of all races, can any Christian feel right in rejecting others due to prejudice? Peter did not think so. His question should be our guide when we deal with our own prejudice, "Who was I to think that I could oppose God (11:17)?" Just as the Holy Spirit empowers us to witness, he empowers us to overcome prejudice.

VanHorn is pastor of First Church, Columbia.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Items intended for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten or (b) handwritten and typed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper. Items must be submitted on standardized paper and in black ink. All items must be submitted in writing; no articles may be submitted over the telephone.

Items may be submitted electronically via e-mail to [bpsticrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:bpsticrecord@mbcb.org), and must be contained in the body of an e-mail message. Please do not send attachments over the telephone.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

#### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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T DL QNMQTCTAE FTSZ

QZNTJS: BAIANSZAVAJJ T  
VTIA; KAS BXS T, GMS  
QZNTJS VTIASZ TB LA;  
DBE SZA VTCA FZTQZ T  
BXF VTIASZ TB SZA CVAJZ T  
VTIA GK SZA CDTSZ XC  
SZA JXB XC YXE, FZK  
VXIAE LA, DBE YDIA ZTL-  
JAVC CXN LA.

YDVSSTDBJ SFX: SFABSK

Clue: Q = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Twenty-Six: Sixteen.

# Baptists responding to USS Cole bombing

NORFOLK, Va. (BP) — The search continues for sailors missing and presumed dead in the terrorist attack on a U.S. Navy destroyer in the Yemeni port city of Aden, Pentagon officials said.

Meanwhile, Southern Baptist churches are mobilizing relief efforts to minister to the families of the sailors aboard the USS Cole.

At least one Southern Baptist sailor was aboard the USS Cole, according to Helen Spore, a communication specialist at First Church, Norfolk. "We've met with his wife and their three children," Spore said. "It's a very difficult time not knowing."

News reports also indicate that two Mississippians were on the ship, and one of them was killed.

David Mullis, associate for military chaplaincy with the North American Mission Board, told Baptist Press there was likely not a Southern Baptist chaplain or any other chaplain actually on board the USS Cole when it was hit. However, he confirmed that Southern

Baptist chaplains are based in Norfolk and would be available for assisting families.

Spore said First Church sponsors a military wives encouragement group that was meeting Oct. 12. "It was definitely a topic of conversation and it was a coincidence that they were meeting on the morning of the attack" Spore said.

Pat Daniels, office administrator for the Norfolk Association, said their office has been extremely busy coordinating retired Baptist chaplains and pressing them into service.

"We've also extended our help to the mil-

itary, offering to find them a church site for the families to come together and to find housing for families coming into the area," Daniels said.

of the USS Cole during a refueling stop at a facility in Aden, Yemen, was the work of two terrorists on a suicide mission, Pentagon officials have told ABC News.

At the White House, President Clinton pledged action. "If, as it now appears, this was an act of terrorism, it was a despicable and cowardly act. We will find out who was responsible and hold them accountable," Clinton told reporters.

"If their intention was to deter us from our mission of promoting peace and security in the Middle East, they will fail utterly," he said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is coordinating with the Naval intelligence service, said Steven Berry, supervisory special agent at the FBI's national press office.

The FBI's legal attaché from Riyadh,

Saudi Arabia, is being dispatched to the scene.

The Cole, a Norfolk, Va.-based destroyer armed with conventional missiles and torpedoes, was in Aden while on a refueling stop as it traveled from the Red Sea to Bahrain.

The Navy has issued an information line, (800) 368-3202, for the families of the sailors.

The Navy also has established a gathering place for the families at the Norfolk base, said Adm. John Foley, where they can receive information updates, legal assistance, and counseling.



USS COLE — The search continues for missing sailors in the aftermath of a terrorist attack on a U.S. Navy destroyer today in the Middle Eastern port city of Aden, Pentagon officials said. Meanwhile, local Southern Baptist churches are mobilizing relief efforts to minister to the families of the sailors aboard the USS Cole. (US Navy photo)

In addition, Norfolk Association said two churches, Kempsville Church and Ocean View Church, were open throughout the night of the bombing for prayer services.

Rob Edwards, pastor of discipleship at Ocean View, and a former reserve chaplain in the Air Force, said anyone is welcome to come and pray at their church.

"We're about a half mile from the base and we're pretty convenient," Edwards said. "The town is on edge today and what we've heard is a great deal of concern for our sailors."

The explosion that tore a hole in the side

Netzirim Junction south of Gaza City, where Israeli troops blew up two buildings thought to protect Palestinian snipers firing at Israeli positions.

Worrisome to many observers is that Arabs living within Israel have joined in the uprising, something that did not happen in earlier periods of violence. Further, Israelis have tended to have military forces respond to violence, but many civilian citizens have joined in the present conflict.

In Nazareth, a predominantly Arab area, mobs stormed a mall and destroyed a Jewish-owned pharmacy, bank, and fast food restaurant while a Southern Baptist worker and other Christians met in an evangelical church to pray for peace. She described her shock later at seeing heavily armed Israeli troops unloading from a bus on her street and then passing through her neighborhood.

Another kind of shock came when a neighbor's child brought in hands full of the rubber-coated steel balls fired by Israeli

troops at protesters, she said.

"We Southern Baptists need to be careful not to make statements that condemn one side or the other. Both sides are at fault," cautioned one worker who lives in Israel. "We don't need to lay blame but to be in a position of praying for peace and their salvation," he urged.

Ironically, the conflict has come at a time when Jewish followers of Christ continue to increase numerically and workers have seen an unprecedented response to the gospel among Arabs in the past couple of years. One of the few times Jews and Arabs sit together in peace is at Christian functions, one worker said.

"The reality is that peace can only come through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace," said one Southern Baptist worker on the West Bank.

"It's ironic," said another Southern Baptist worker, "that Israel just celebrated Yom Kippur — the Day of Atonement — and we serve a risen Lord who already atoned for sin."

## Baptist workers in Israel safe, but set to evacuate

JERUSALEM (BP) — As one of the most violent uprisings in years continues between Israel and Palestinians, Southern Baptist personnel in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank remain safe but poised for possible evacuation if conditions worsen.

They appealed to Southern Baptists to avoid taking sides and to pray for all involved in the conflict.

More than 80 people have died as the conflict stretched into its second week. Pitched gun battles, rock throwing, and other fighting continued in Hebron, Ramallah, and Netzarim but violence also broke out in Nazareth, the home town of Jesus.

Hopes for a peace accord seemed faint as Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak threatened further military response if the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, did not end the conflict. Raw emotion and hatred are always plentiful in this troubled land and neither side seems prepared to back down.

More than two dozen Southern Baptist workers are currently assigned to Israel and about a dozen to Gaza and the West Bank, though some of these are in the United States for periodic assignments there.

One Southern Baptist family hears machine gun fire and the noise of demonstrations about a mile from their home in Ramallah. "We feel safe. We've been here four and a half years and the people who live around us care about us," she said.

"But it's scary to hear the machine gun fire at night, not because you think you're going to be hurt, but you think, who is being hurt? What will be the result tomorrow?" she said. Shops have been open only limited hours and they have mostly stayed indoors, she said.

Southern Baptist workers in Gaza City live and work near demonstrations which have united thousands of Palestinians — including political parties usually divided — in vivid displays of hatred towards Israel. But the main conflict has been at